

held at Oxford, which is put into my hands as I write these last lines. Space forbids me to quote at any length, but these few words are significant of the times:—

"Mr. A. L. Smith found girls' work 'deficient in reasoning power, neither terse nor concentrated enough in style, wanting in originality, with a tendency to be servile and wooden.'"

"Miss Lees (Tutor, Somerville) added to her paper a suggestion that more leisure should be given to girls in schools, as tending to cultivate their imagination and foster originality."

Last but not least, "Miss Lacey made a bold and revolutionary speech, denouncing all external examinations for girls at school. Mr. Maude followed, and professed himself quite willing to be exterminated. He had for fifteen years seen the results of cramming Clarendon Press Notes and could face the end with complacency."

Do we need further proof? Is not the House of Education at Ambleside more than justified?

F. R.

"ONWARD!—BUT TOGETHER!"

"How far one feels from all P.N.E.U. here"; "So many letters run down our Magazine!"

I know I am rather audacious to quote for general benefit, and without the writers' sanction, sentences such as these, but I am conscious of having a very definite end in view, so I hope the writers of the above will forgive me; as for the rest—well, I am prepared to run the gauntlet of opinion, for I am convinced that there are times when it is much the best way to say exactly what one means, and to state clearly the origin of one's ideas on a given subject.

Having said this as some sort of apology, I now want to go as thoroughly into matters as space and the forbearance of our long-suffering Editor will allow.

I think my readers will agree with me that, underlying the first of these remarks, there is in the mind of the writer a sense of

isolation *which should not be* if our Association were the power for good among us that it might be. Then, under that second remark, there appears to me a lack of enthusiasm—generous and whole-hearted—which again points out that our Association is not all that could be wished. Go one step further and we come to the root of the matter, viz., a lack of internal unity among the members of our Association.

To some of us, the well-being and the sound and steady growth of our Association are matters of earnest thought, and at times, I fear, of some little anxiety; and since, year by year, our band of fellow-students is increasing, I know I am only echoing the thought of some of our most earnest workers when I say that it is an *imperative necessity* that, as our chain grows in length, it should grow also in strength, and that so long as there is this want of consolidation, we can never look for that power which comes from *united effort* and *united aim*.

Now I believe I am right in saying that most, if not all, of the students who have passed through the House of Education fall into one or other of these three classes:

(a) Those whose very surroundings tend to keep up their enthusiasm, to whom the course is smooth, and for whom but little comes to mar "the even tenor of their way."

(b) Those who are away in lonely out-posts—battling hard with the difficulties of the untoward surroundings—away from P.N.E.U. thought and inspiration, and, as Mrs. Arnold-Forster so well expresses it, in danger of becoming "dreary teachers . . . from being out of touch with any kindred spirit."

(c) Those whose enthusiasm is as a flickering flame, because they are suffering themselves to lose those "*ideals*" which "*are the very of life*" (Westcott).

Now to all my fellow-students (and let me here remark, this term should for each one of us apply to *all* who have worked under, and been trained by, our beloved President) to all such I say that the knowledge of our weakness should be a source of strength. If, as isolated units banded together externally by a common interest in the weal of the P.N.E.U., and by the possession of that single aim which not one of us who is true to her H.O.E. training can dare to lose from sight, we can do much, what may we not effect with God's help and blessing, if we draw closer together, letting the links of our Association be no imaginary ones, but so welded together by a sense of fellowship, mutual interest and mutual help,

that the whole shall bind us with a strength invincible because it springs from *Internal Unity*?

Now as steps to the establishment of this Internal Unity in our Association, I would suggest the adoption of these three plans, grounded on ideas already put forward by various members.

(1) A Letter-Band, so arranged that not one of the students, past, present, or future, shall be left to feel either that she has "no kindred spirit" with whom she can take counsel, or that her work is uncared for by at least one fellow-student. Space forbids a further entrance here into the working of this plan, but the details will be placed in the hands of our Editor.

(2) The establishment of a Magazine Club, by means of which those who wish can, on payment of a small yearly fee to cover postage, see various magazines connected with education and matters of general interest.

(3) A Reading Union, so that members may have the advantage of a definite course of reading for each half-year, with the possibility of having lent among themselves some at least of the works studied, thus avoiding some part of the expense entailed by the purchase of very many books. It is hoped too that this may lead eventually to an interchange of thoughts among the members on the books read.

I fear I am taking up more space than ought to be given to one paper, so I must close. But let us all remember that, for the acquisition of true strength, the growth must be from the *inner being* of our Association, and so I would suggest as the motto for all helpers, the one at the head of this paper:

"Onward! but together."

If we would "bear one another's burdens," can we not make time — even the busiest of us — to send the word of bright cheery sympathy to a lonely or much-tried fellow-worker?

If we would "keep keenness" we must not only read ourselves but encourage others to do the same.

And let us never forget the wise words of Browning:

"Knowing ourselves, our world, our task so great,
Our time so brief, — 'tis clear if we refuse
The means so limited, the tools so rude
To execute our purpose, life will fleet,
And we shall fade, and leave our work undone. —
We will be wise in time!"

And again those inspiring lines by Lowell:

"Life is joy, and Love is power,
Death all fetters doth unbind;
Strength and wisdom only flower
When we toil for all our kind
Hope is truth — The Future giveth
More than Present takes away;
And the soul for ever liveth
Nearer God from day to day."

And these from *The Disciples*:

"Measure thy Life by loss instead of gain,
Not by the wine drunk but by the wine poured forth!
For Love's strength standeth in Love's sacrifice;
And whoso suffers most, has most to give."

C. F. BARNETT.

A FORTNIGHT IN SOUTH DEVON.

THIS year the National Home-Reading Union held its summer meeting at Exeter. The last summer meeting of that society which I had the pleasure of attending was the one held at Bowness in 1892, the year I was at the House of Education.

Miss Mason very kindly made arrangements by which we, the then students, profited by some of the lectures, and for the week each had a lake ticket, which was made the most of. The subjects I followed in '92 were: Botany, Geology, and Dr. Bailey's lectures on the "Lake Poets," and very delightful I found it to be.

As we, a trio, were sitting at breakfast one June morning this year, my pupil's mother said, "How would you both like to go to Devonshire for a fortnight?" We were delighted, as a longing for the beauties of leafy Devon was not a young one. Then we heard that the N. H.-R. U. was holding its summer meeting at Exeter and that we might go to it.

After numerous arrangements we set off, and were met *en route* by my sister, and a very happy trio we were. South of Birmingham it was all new country to us and we were intensely excited as we crossed the boundary of each shire. When night had come on we